

Message Text

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NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 PA-01 SP-02 DLOS-09

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 ISO-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4888

INFO USUN CLASSIFIED SUMMARY COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USUN 2607

UNSUMMARY

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USIAEA ALSO FOR EMBASSY

BRIDGETOWN FOR AMB YOUNG

POUCHED INFO LAGOS NICOSIA OTTAWA STOCKHOLM BRASILIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: USUN DAILY CLASSIFIED SUMMARY NO. 149

AUGUST 15, 1977

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1. PUERTO RICO --

COMMITTEE OF 24 VICE CHAIRMAN VRAALSEN (NORWAY) HAS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN NEGOTIATIONS TO GET CUBAN AGREEMENT TO AN ACCEPTABLE CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO RATHER THAN A RESOLUTION. HE REPORTED FAVORABLE REACTION BY SALADO VILLACIN (CUBA) TO NEW TEXT, SLIGHTLY MODIFIED BY VRAALSEN IN CONSULTATION WITH USUN. AS VRAALSEN HAD ANTICIPATED, SALADO REQUESTED DELETION OF WORDS "IF THAT IS THEIR WISH," BUT DID NOT ASK FOR OTHER CHANGES. SALADO AGREED TO SHOW TEXT TO CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON WHEN LATTER RETURNED TO NEW YORK LATE AUG. 15, AND VRAALSEN WAS HOPEFUL THAT AGREEMENT ON CONSENSUS COULD BE REACHED AUG 16. VRAALSEN SAID HE WOULD EMPHASIZE TO ALARCON THAT COMMITTEE OF 24 MEMBERS ARE ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE WORK ON PUERTO RICO AND ARE UNHAPPY WITH EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER OF PETITIONERS (26). REPORTEDLY SOVIETS AND YUGOSLAVS ARE STRESSING DESIRE TO AVOID VOTING SITUATION ON PUERTO RICO. EARLIER, VRAALSEN REPORTED HE HAD GOTTEN COMMITMENT FROM SALADO THAT IF CONSENSUS AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE COMMITTEE, THE CUBANS WOULD NOT RAISE PUERTO RICO FORMALLY IN THE GA, AND HE SAID HE WILL ASK ALARCON FOR FURTHER CONFIRMATION. (CONFIDENTIAL -- USUN 2589, 2598, 2606)

2. COMMITTEE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES --

THE DEBATE IN THE COMMITTEE THUS FAR HAS BEEN LARGELY IMPROMPTU AND CONTAINED MUCH CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE. MOST CONTROVERSIAL
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ISSUE IS WHETHER SCOPE OF ANY CONVENTION COVERS TAKING OF HOSTAGES BY NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (NLM'S). TANZANIA, LESOTHO, ALGERIA AND NIGERIA ARGUE THAT NLM'S SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE HOSTAGES. US, SUPPORTED BY CANADA, FRG, UK, NETHERLANDS AND MEXICO, ARGUE THAT THIS WOULD BE REGRESSION TO NOTION OF JUST AND UNJUST WARS, THERE ARE LIMITS ON WHAT STATES CAN DO IN SELF-DEFENSE, AND THAT LIMITS ON ACTS NLM'S COULD PERFORM HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL STATES DURING NEGOTIATION OF PROTOCOLS TO THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS. MEXICO, LESOTHO AND VENEZUELA HAVE URGED THE INCLUSION OF A PROVISION TO EFFECT THAT THE CONVENTION WILL NOT AFFECT THE PRINCIPLE OF ASYLUM, AND AN ADDITIONAL ISSUE RAISED BY TANZANIA AND USSR IS RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL.

MEXICO HAS INTRODUCED INTERESTING PROPOSAL ATTEMPTING TO SIDESTEP PROBLEM OF NLM'S WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LANGUAGE LIMITING OPERATION OF CONVENTION TO SITUATION OTHER THAN ARMED CONFLICT. BECAUSE THE LANGUAGE APPEARS TO EXCLUDE NLM'S IT MAY BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO MOST ARABS AND AFRICA. HOWEVER, TANZANIA AND ALGERIA HAVE QUESTIONED THE PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTED DELETION OF THE WORDS "COVERED BY THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE TO ARMED CONFLICT." FRG IS SATISFIED WITH CONSIDERATION BEING

GIVEN TO ITS DRAFT AND MAIN FOCUS ON IT THUS FAR. (CONFIDENTIAL --
USUN 2599, 2602)

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3. NUJOMA'S ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA --

USUN LEARNED THAT WAPO PRESIDENT NUJOMA, DURING HIS ACCOUNT TO
THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA OF THE SWAPO-WESTERN FIVE TALKS, STRESSED
THAT THEY WERE EXPLORATORY AND THAT ALTHOUGH NO AGREEMENT HAD
BEEN REACHED CERTAIN UNDERSTANDINGS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. IT
WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FIVE WOULD TAKE SWAPO'S POSITION TO
THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND
THAT THERE WOULD BE A FURTHER MEETING. HE ALSO SAID SWAPO WOULD
CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY THE ARMED STRUGGLE AND CONTINUE TO
CONDUCT ITS POLICY OF "MASS POLITICAL EDUCATION" IN NAMIBIA.
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HE REPORTEDLY MADE A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR REPARATIONS FOR THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. (CONFIDENTIAL -- USUN 2605)

4. LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE --

WESTERN FIVE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE LAGOS CONFERENCE DRAFT DECLARATION AND DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF APPROACH TO NIGERIAN UN AMB HARRIMAN TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS. THE FIVE SEEMED TO BE IN FAIRLY CLOSE ACCORD AND AGREED AD REFERENDUM ON PROPOSED CHANGES IF APPROACH IS TO BE MADE TO HARRIMAN IN LAGOS. (CONFIDENTIAL -- USUN 2604)

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THE UN ANNOUNCED FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAGOS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING OFFICERS, SPEAKERS LIST, AND PLANS FOR OBSERVENCE OF NAMIBIA DAY, AUG 26, THE FINAL DAY OF THE CONFERENCE.

5. COMMITTEE OF 24 -- PUERTO RICO

THE COMMITTEE BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO AUG 15. RAPPORTEUR GLAYEL (SYRIA), INTRODUCING THE REPORT, NOTED THAT THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE US CONGRESS IN 1976 ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO COVERED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION, STATEHOOD WITH THE US, AND INDEPENDENCE. STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUERTO RICAN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION, PUERTO RICANS AGAINST STATEHOOD, THE PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, AND BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ACTING CHAIRMAN ABDULAH (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) HOPED THE HEARINGS WOULD BE COMPLETED AUG 16 AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM CONCLUDED AUG 17. THE REPORT OF THE VISTING MISSION TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS AND THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS WILL BE TAKEN UP AFTER THE VISITING MISSION CHAIRMAN RETURNS
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TO NEW YORK IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

JUAN GARCIA-PASSALACQUA, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUERTO RICAN CHAPTER OF AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION, CALLED ON THE COMMITTEE TO ASSUME JURISDICTION OVER PUERTO RICO. HE CHARGED THAT FREE ASSOCIATION WAS A FORM OF COLONIALISM; HENCE, THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAD TO SEEK INDEPENDENCE OR STATEHOOD ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE US.

FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ VARGAS, REPRESENTATIVE OF PUERTO RICANS AGAINST STATEHOOD, SAID HIS ORGANIZATION'S AIM WAS TO FIGHT

PEACEFULLY AGAINST THE CULTURAL ASSIMILATION OF PUERTO RICO AND ITS POLITICAL ANNEXATION BY THE US. THE UN WAS MORALLY AND JURIDICALLY BOUND TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN JURISDICTION OVER PUERTO RICO. HE ARGUED THAT THE 1898 TREATY OF PARIS WAS NOT BINDING ON PUERTO RICO, AND HE CITED A NUMBER OF REASONS WHY THE CESSION OF PUERTO RICO TO THE US BY SPAIN WAS NULL AND VOID. WHAT WAS AT ISSUE, AS IN PANAMA, WAS THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY. THE US HAD TURNED PUERTO RICO INTO A MILITARY BASE; IT PAID OTHER COUNTRIES WELL FOR ITS BASES, INCLUDING SPAIN, BUT DID NOT PAY PUERTO RICO ONE CENT FOR SUCH USE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO PUERTO RICAN MILITARY SERVICE IN THE US AND TO US EXPLOITATION OF PUERTO RICAN OIL, NICKEL AND COPPER. HE DECLARED, "STATEHOOD MUST BE POLITICALLY AND LEGALLY ELIMINATED AS A SOLUTION TO OUR CASE."

GRACIANY MIRANDA-MARCHAND, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, CALLED IT AN "AFFRONT TO THE DIGNITY OF ALL MANKIND" THAT PUERTO RICO REMAINED THE WAY IT WAS POLITICALLY. HE ASSERTED THAT THE US CONTINUED TO EXERCISE FULL POWER OVER THE TERRITORY. HE REFERRED TO THE REPORT OF THE PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW WHICH HAD INDICATED POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION WERE COMMONWEALTH, STATEHOOD, AND INDEPENDENCE. THE BAR ASSOCIATION

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BELIEVED THAT THE US SHOULD RENOUNCE ALL ITS POWERS OVER PUERTO RICO AND THE PEOPLE SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SOVEREIGNTY AND SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID THE BAR ASSOCIATION CONSIDERED IT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO THEMSELVES TO CHOOSE AMONG THE THREE ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO THEM. HE SAID THE PROPOSED NEW COMPACT BETWEEN THE US AND PUERTO RICO DID NOT FULFILL THE ANTI-COLONIALIST REQUIREMENTS OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OR THE UN. COPIES OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION'S REPORT ON THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DECOLONIZATION WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS. HE
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WANTED THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS SUPERVISED BY THE UN, FULL AMNESTY FOR ALL PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS, MASSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE EXERCISED SOLELY BY THOSE REMAINING IN PUERTO RICO. HE CONCLUDED BY REQUESTING THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO ASSUME JURISDICTION OVER THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IN PUERTO RICO.

MARCO ANTONIO RIGAU, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY, NOTED THAT ONE OF THE REALITIES WAS THAT APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT OF ALL PUERTO RICANS WANTED TO RETAIN SOME TYPE OF ASSOCIATION OR LINK BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND THE US. HE THEN DECLARED THAT PUERTO RICO MUST BE DECOLONIZED ONCE AND FOR ALL. TODAY THE COLONIAL STATUS WAS SEEN MORE CLEARLY THAN IN 1952. SELF-GOVERNMENT WAS IMPOSSIBLE UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE OPPOSED STATEHOOD AS SUICIDE OF A COUNTRY, AND CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY FEASIBLE WAY FOR PUERTO RICO TODAY WAS THROUGH FREE ASSOCIATION WITH ANOTHER STATE. FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE US MUST FULFILL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE COMMITTEE MUST CONSIDER THAT AS A POSSIBILITY, HE SAID, ACCUSING THE US OF IMPEDING THE FREE ASSOCIATION STATUS.

SEVERO E. COLBERG, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SAID THAT PUERTO RICO URGENTLY NEEDED CHANGE IN ITS TERMS OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE US; WHILE THE US WAS GENEROUS WITH MONEY, IT WAS NOT SO WITH FREEDOM; THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISHED TO BE AUTONOMUOUS AND THEIR FUTURE SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES; AND THE STATUS OF COMMONWEALTH DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY FOR THAT STATUS TO GROW INTO INDEPENDENCE. COLBERG BELIEVED AMB YOUNG WOULD JOIN THE PUERTO RICANS IN ADVOCATING SELF-DETERMINATION AND FULL ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PUERTO RICO DID NOT WISH TO BE A "FICTITIOUS STATE," BUT WISHED TO BE A DISTINCTIVE ENTITY,

HE CONCLUDED.

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6. COMMITTEE ON ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION --

THE COMMITTEE AUG 15 ADOPTED A REPORT DRAWN UP BY ITS THREE WORKING GROUPS DEALING WITH PETITIONS, REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TO WHICH THE DECOLONIZATION DECLARATION APPLIES. INCLUDED WERE SECTIONS COVERING GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA, TTPI AND THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS. CHAIRMAN KAPTEYN, NETHERLANDS EXPERT, ANNOUNCED HE HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA TO HOLD A FUTURE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE IN PANAMA, AND IT WAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO HOLD THE 1979 SPRING SESSION IN PANAMA CITY. THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO STAND BY A PREVIOUS DECISION TO HOLD THE 1978 SPRING SESSION IN NEW YORK MARCH 20-APRIL 7, AND TO SCHEDULE ONE WEEK EARLIER ITS 1978 SUMMER SESSION FOR JULY 24-AUG 11 IN NEW YORK.

7. CANDIDACY FOR COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS --

BY NOTE, THE ITALIAN MISSION ANNOUNCED THE CANDIDACY OF MISS FERNANDA FORCIGNANO FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE 32ND GA. (USUN A-738)

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